

What is claimed is:

5 1. A food storage container comprising:
a base having a base bottom panel with an upper side, a lower side, and a
base perimeter, and having a cylindrical side wall extending generally upward from
and around the base perimeter, the side wall terminating at a top edge and defining
an open top;
10 a lid having a top panel with a top side, a bottom side, and a lid perimeter;
and
15 a nesting structure provided at least in part on a portion of the base and at
least in part on a portion of the lid, the nesting structure adapted for removably
nesting the lower side of the base with the lid in either a standard lid orientation or
an inverted lid orientation.

20 2. A food storage container according to claim 1, wherein the base is
nestable with other bases of other containers to form a base stack, and wherein an
exposed lower most base of the base stack is removably nestable to the lid.

25 3. A food storage container according to claim 1, wherein the lid is
nestable with other lids of other containers to form a lid stack, and wherein a
selected one of an upper most exposed lid and a lower most exposed lid of the lid
stack is removably nestable to the container base.

30 4. A food storage container according to claim 2, wherein the lid is
nestable with other lids of other containers to form a lid stack, and wherein a
selected one of an upper most exposed lid and a lower most exposed lid of the lid
stack is removably nestable to the exposed lower most base of the base stack.

5. A food storage container according to claim 1, wherein the side wall
is a generally circular cylinder.

6. A food storage container according to claim 5, wherein the side wall is at least a slightly frusto-conical circular cylinder.

5 7. A food storage container according to claim 1, wherein the side wall is a generally rectangular cylinder.

8. A food storage container according to claim 1, wherein the nesting structure comprises:

a downwardly recessed surface in the top panel relative to the standard orientation;

10 an annular shoulder wall extending around the recessed surface;

a step in the shoulder wall forming a step top surface that faces upward in the standard orientation, and a step bottom surface that faces upward in the inverted orientation; and

15 a depending element extending downward from the base bottom panel that can rest on a selected one of the step top surface or the step bottom surface.

9. A food storage container according to claim 8, wherein the depending element is a rib extending from the lower side of the bottom panel.

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10. A food storage container according to claim 8, wherein the lower side of the bottom panel has an upwardly recessed section defining a leg as the depending element in the lower side between the recessed section and the base perimeter.

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11. A food storage container according to claim 1, wherein the nesting structure is provided at least in part on the lid top panel.

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12. A food storage container according to claim 1, wherein the nesting structure is provided at least in part on the base bottom panel.